

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference, comprising:

a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having at least one
5 faceplate opening provided therein; and
a faceplate extension projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of the faceplate opening, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

2. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension projects outwardly from said conductive
10 faceplate.

3. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension is rectangular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with the faceplate opening.

4. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference
15 as recited in claim 1, wherein a transceiver for a circuit board is provided adjacent to the faceplate opening and is protected from electrostatic discharge by said faceplate extension.

5. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 4, wherein a connector for a fiber is provided through said faceplate extension and the faceplate opening to optically communicate with a connector provided within the transceiver.

20 6. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said conductive faceplate and said faceplate extension comprise

aluminum alloy.

7. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension outwardly projects from said conductive faceplate at least 0.2 inches.

5 8. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension is circular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with the faceplate opening.

9. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference, comprising:

10 a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having a plurality of faceplate openings provided therein; and

a plurality of faceplate extensions, each faceplate extension projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of a corresponding one of the plurality of faceplate openings, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

15 10. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein said plurality of faceplate extensions project outwardly from said conductive faceplate.

11. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein each faceplate extension is rectangular-shaped and has an opening
20 provided therethrough that communicates with a corresponding faceplate opening.

12. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference

as recited in claim 9, wherein a transceiver for a circuit board is provided adjacent to each of the plurality of faceplate openings of said conductive faceplate, each transceiver being protected from electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference by a corresponding faceplate extension provided around the periphery of each faceplate opening.

5 13. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 12, wherein a connector for a fiber is provided through each of said faceplate extensions and the faceplate openings to optically communicate with a corresponding transceiver.

10 14. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein said conductive faceplate and each faceplate extension comprises aluminum alloy.

 15. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein each faceplate extension outwardly projects from said conductive faceplate at least 0.2 inches.

15 16. An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein each faceplate extension is circular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with a corresponding faceplate opening.

 17. An optical multiplexor housing, comprising:

 a conductive faceplate for an optical multiplexor, said faceplate having a plurality of faceplate openings provided therein;

20 a plurality of faceplate extensions, each faceplate extension outwardly projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of a corresponding one of the plurality of faceplate

openings, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide; and

a plurality of transceivers for the optical multiplexor, each transceiver being provided adjacent to each of the plurality of faceplate openings, each transceiver being protected from electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference by a corresponding faceplate extension
5 provided around the periphery of each faceplate opening.

18. An optical multiplexor housing as recited in claim 17, wherein a connector for a fiber is provided through each of the faceplate extensions and the faceplate openings to optically communicate with a corresponding optical multiplexor transceiver.

19. A method of attenuating an electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference in
10 an optical communications module having a faceplate, comprising:

providing a connector opening in the faceplate; and

extending a portion of the faceplate substantially surrounding the periphery of the connector opening to form an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

20. A method of attenuating an electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference in
15 an optical communications module having a faceplate, comprising:

providing a plurality of connector openings in the faceplate; and

extending portions of the faceplate substantially surrounding the peripheries of each of the connector openings to form a plurality of electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguides.

21. An apparatus for attenuating energy, comprising:

20 a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having at least one faceplate opening provided therein; and

a faceplate extension projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of the faceplate opening, and forming an energy waveguide.

22. An apparatus for attenuating energy, wherein the energy comprises one of electromagnetic interference (EMI), electrostatic discharge (ESD), or a combination of EMI and

5 ESD.